

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5812

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1320

DEPT REPEAT USUN, PANAMA CITY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, PN YO

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN PANAMA - YUGOSLAV ROLE

REF: USUN 1071

1. EMB ASSUMES DEPT WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS RE DEMARCHE TO GOY CONCERNING PANAMA SC MEETING. MEANWHILE, ADDRESSEES SHOULD KNOW THAT EMB HAS ALREADY DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS. LAST NOVEMBER DCM EXPLAINED WHY US OPPOSED IDEA OF PANAMA SC MEETING AND REQUESTED GOY JOINT US IN SEEKING TO BLOCK IT (EMBTEL 5320). AFTER SC MEETING COMMENCED, EMBOFF ARRANGED APPOINTMENT TO PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON STEPS US HAS TAKEN IN CANAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP AND EXPLAINED US SC POSITION (EMBTEL 1197). ON MARCH 22, DCM EXPRESSED TO KREACIC, DIRECTOR, AMERICAS DEPARTMENT, EMB' S REGRET (ECHOING THAT OF AMB SCALI) (USUN 820) THAT AMB MOJSOV HAD SEEN FIT TO JUNKET AROUND TO LA CAPITALS ENCOURAGING HIGH- LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT PANAMA SC MEETING.

2. KREACIC RESPONDED IN GENERAL TERMS TO EFFECT THAT GOY AS DEVELOPING, NON- ALIGNED, SOCIALIST COUNTRY INEVITABLY APPROACHES SUCH ISSUES DIFFERENTLY THAN US, WHICH IS ESTABLISHED WORLD POWER WITH STRONG AND INFLUENTIAL ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE EARTH. CONSISTENT WITH BASIC DIRECTIONS YUGO-
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SLAVIA'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY, HE SAID, GOY ALWAYS SUPPORTS STRIVINGS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR FREEDOM FROM OUTSIDE PRESSURES, POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC. HENCE STRONG DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS ON PANAMA ISSUE WAS INEVITABLE.

3. FOREGOING LINE WOULD FORM IMPORTANT PART OF YUGOSLAV RESPONSE TO ANY FURTHER DEMARCHE, AND DEPT MAY WISH REFLECT THIS IN FRAMING INSTRUCTIONS. IN ADDITION, EMB RECOMMENDS CAUTION IN PRESSING POINT (2) OF PARA 11 REFTEL. WE CAN MAKE VALID POINT THAT PANAMA ISSUE (LIKE THAT OF PUERTO RICO) IS OF FAR MORE DIRECT IMPORTANCE TO US THAN TO YUGOSLAVIA AND THAT UNHELPFUL YUGOSLAV ACTIVISM LIKELY TO PRODUCE STRONG REACTION IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD AVOID FLAT ASSERTION THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN LA REGION. THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO ASSUME ROLE OF NON-ALIGNED LEADER THERE AS IN OTHER PARTS OF SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, AND KREACIC PERSONALLY MADE VISITS TO NUMEROUS LA CAPITALS LAST YEAR. LARGE YUGOSLAV CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISES ARE ACTIVE IN SEVERAL LA COUNTRIES AND EFFORTS BEING MADE TO EXPAND ALL ASPECTS ECONOMIC RELATIONS. WHILE SOME MAY NOT REGARD SUCH YUGOSLAV INTERESTS AS "LEGITIMATE", YUGOSLAVS WOULD VIGOROUSLY DISSENT, AND ANY SUGGESTION THAT US EXPECTS GOY TO KEEP ITS HANDS OFF LA WOULD MERELY RESULT IN PROPAGANDA COUNTERCLAIM THAT MONROE DOCTRINE HAS NO RELEVANCE IN 1970'S.

TOON

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED USUN, PANAMA CITY.

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